

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 are now pending in this application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8-11 have been amended and Claims 13-15 are newly-presented herein. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 2 was objected to for minor informalities and rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this objection and rejection, Applicants have amended Claim 2 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 1 380 423 (Kubota et al.), Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2004-042396 (Kubota (JP)), and/or European Patent Application No. 0 734 866 (Ohkuma et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kubota et al. is directed to a method for producing a liquid discharge head and includes forming a positive-working photosensitive material on a substrate. This material is disclosed as including a ternary copolymer. This is contrary to the present invention which now recites a photodegradable resin layer including a binary acrylic copolymer composition in independent Claim 1.

As to Kubota JP and Ohkuma et al., these citations were not used to reject Claim 7. The features of Claim 7 have been incorporated into independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Kubota et al., Kubota JP and Ohkuma et al. each individually fail to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the citations of record to resolve these deficiencies.

Thus, Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-15 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in the independent claim. For example, the molecular weight range recited in Claims 14 and 15 differs from that recited in Kubota et al. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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